

FELONY & MAYHEM

THE BEST IN INTELLIGENT MYSTERY FICTION

Fall 2020

From the Publisher

Dear Felonious Friends,

Thank Goodness for books. Can I get an *amen*? I can't imagine what I'd be doing, in the Current Environment, if I couldn't read myself out of it for at least a couple hours a day.

Of course, where you read yourself *to* is an important question. A few weeks ago, somebody posted on Facebook a picture of an ordinary suburban street—tidy, predictable, nothing untoward. But in the middle of the street was...a door. A heavy, carved wooden door, with a gleaming, beckoning brass knob. Would you yield to temptation? Would you walk through the door? Any number of people said "Yes, sure, how cool! Of course I'd open the door!" And I thought...idiots! Have you never read a children's book? Do you truly imagine that all enchanted doors open onto Narnia?

We can't always know what's on the other side before we push the door open. That's the essence of being human: The future is unknown, and yet we must walk into it. But it pays to hedge one's bets, these days perhaps even more than usual, what with all the uncertainty whistling in the wind.

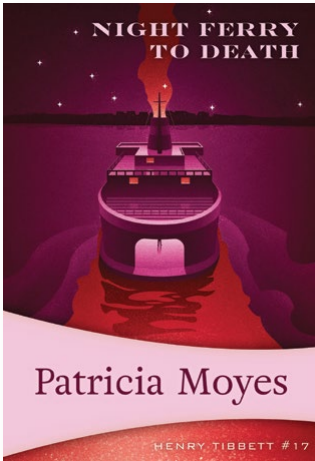
Books, of course, are the door we're offering. In the common course of things, I love a surprise between the covers, love to gasp "I did *not* see that coming!" but right now, maybe not so much. Right now, I'm all about No Nasty Surprises. And, supposing that many of you have similar inclinations, we're instituting some measures to help dial down uncertainty. First is our new Samplers program, a kind of "try before you buy." **We have posted the first chapters to a number of our books, giving you the chance to take a taste before you plunk your money down.** We expect to put up more chapters going forward, and the current selection is a nice wide slice of the kinds of things we like to publish.

Those of you who use Edelweiss+ have another option: Many of our books (including all those on this Fall 2020 list) are in series, and most people we know hate reading No. 6 in a series without at least having peeked at No. 1. So for limited periods (not forever, but not an eyeblink) we are posting those No. 1s on Edelweiss+, in their entirety. **Download, read, enjoy, and only then decide if you'd like to buy the new book in the given series.** We're very excited about this First Felonies program; please shoot us an email to tell us what you think.

And finally, there are the books themselves. They have a delicate dance to do. Books with zero surprises? We call those "bad, boring books." We need some element of surprise if a book is to hold our interest and keep us from fretting about nasty things waiting in the wings. So the backlist books we've chosen to highlight this time around—our **Wayback Favorites**—have plenty to intrigue you but little, we hope, to trouble your sleep. So pour out something tasty, pull the reading lamp in close, and read your way into Autumn. And, we all hope, into better times ahead.

See you in the stacks!

Editrix



FELONY CATEGORY: **VINTAGE**

October 2020 • Fiction/Mystery • 224 pages
 Paperback: 978-1-63194-239-6 • \$14.95
 Ebook: 978-1-63194-240-2 • \$9.99

Night Ferry to Death

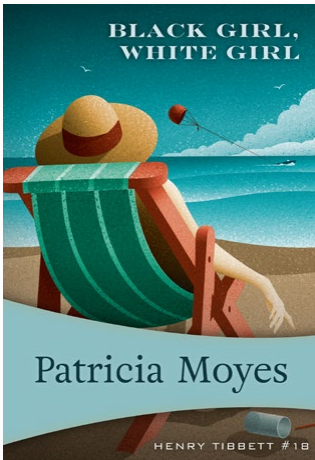
HENRY TIBBETT #17

BY PATRICIA MOYES

Henry and Emmy Tibbett have been traveling and are now headed back to England, on the ferry out of Harwich. It's a trip Emmy has been looking forward to, but her excitement flags when it becomes clear that the cabins are all spoken for; she and Henry will have to bed down in the "sleeping lounge" with a motley collection of their fellow travelers. By morning, one traveler has lost both his life and his fortune in Dutch diamonds. That's bad enough, but a few days later, when Emmy's unpacking at home, she makes a discovery that puts both Tibbetts in real danger. It will take their combined analytical skills to get them free of that terrible boat ride.

- "A mystery with a little bit of everything: characters whose personalities are a little more fleshed out; stolen diamonds; aristocracy, a nice cast of characters from which to choose the villains, a multinational search, and a boat. You really can't ask for much more."

—*LibraryThing*



FELONY CATEGORY: **VINTAGE**

November 2020 • Fiction/Mystery • 216 pages
 Paperback: 978-1-63194-247-1 • \$14.95
 Ebook: 978-1-63194-248-8 • \$9.99

Black Girl, White Girl

HENRY TIBBETT #18

BY PATRICIA MOYES

Henry and Emmy Tibbett have fond memories of Tampica, a Caribbean island that has recently declared independence, throwing off the colonial yoke. But according to Lucy, the Tibbetts' (very) old friend who lives on Tampica, the island has exchanged one set of shackles for another: The new government, she says, is hopelessly corrupt, and Tampica has become a haven for drug smugglers, particularly those specializing in cocaine, known locally as "white girl." Could Henry possibly come and poke around, see if there's any way to return Tampica to the innocent tropical paradise it was in her youth? Henry's happy to poke, but before he's done poking, an awful lot of innocence will be tested and found wanting.

- "One of the deftest practitioners of the British procedural detective novel, [Moyes] somehow manages to make drug dealing seem more like bad manners than bad morals."

—*New York Times*

MORE TRADITIONAL FUN!

Root of All Evil

ANDREW BASNETT #2

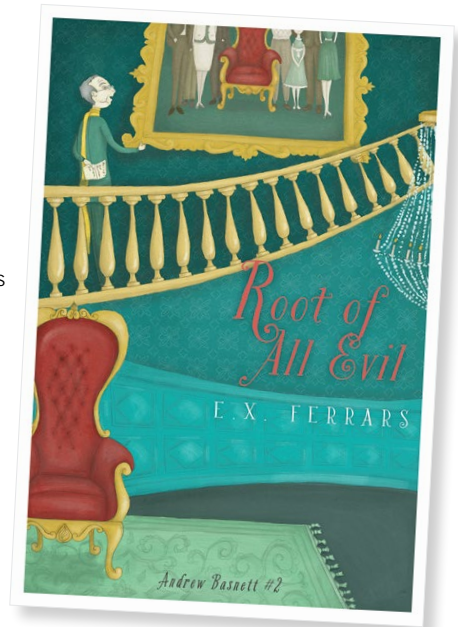
BY E.X. FERRARS

ABOUT THE BOOK

If Andrew Basnett were a savvy mystery reader rather than a retired professor of botany, he would know that an invitation to spend Easter weekend at the Berkshire estate of a wealthy distant relative always involves at least one murder. This one delivers a death threat, an imminent disinheritance, a theft, and two corpses—good thing the quiet professor is around to suss out the family's secrets.

THE CRITICS ADORE E.X. FERRARS

- “All buffs of suspense know that Ferrars is a superb spinner of yarns that puzzle and satisfy, neatly and swiftly.” —*Chicago Tribune*
- “Chalk up another dandy plot...E.X. Ferrars has done it again.” —*The Pittsburgh Press*
- “Carefully clued puzzles in the mould of the traditional detective story, but her understanding of human nature...marks them out from the works of some of her contemporaries” —*The Guardian*
- “Real people on every page.” —*The Times of London*
- “Thought-provoking, soberly exciting.” —*The Times of London*
- “Ferrars is excellent on social nuances and thumbnail character sketches” —*The Independent*
- “A relaxed, sophisticated, amused and amusing style” —*The Sunday Times of London*

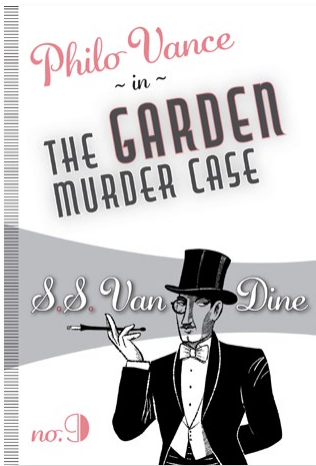


FELONY CATEGORY: **BRITISH**

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Ebook: 978-1-63194-232-7 • \$9.99

ABOUT E.X. FERRARS

Morna Doris MacTaggart was born in Burma in 1907 and sent to boarding school in England. In 1940 she published *Give a Corpse a Bad Name* (as E.X. Ferrars), her first mystery and the first in what would become the “Toby Dyke” series. In 1951 she and her husband moved to the US, though they returned to the UK a year later, sickened by America’s political climate. The couple lived in Edinburgh for 25 years, during which Ferrars helped found the Crime Writers Association and wrote more than 35 crime novels, finally returning to series mystery—first with the “Virginia and Alex Freer” books and then with “Andrew Basnett”—in the late 1970s. She died in 1995, having published more than 75 novels and numerous short stories, nearly all of them involving dead bodies.



FELONY CATEGORY: **VINTAGE**

December 2020 • Fiction/Mystery • 242 pages
Paperback: 978-1-63194-205-1 • \$14.95
Ebook: 978-1-63194-213-6 • \$9.99

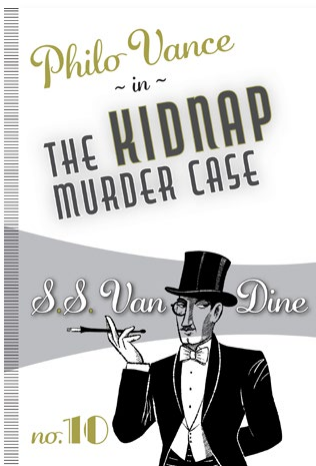
The Garden Murder Case

PHILO VANCE #9

BY S.S. VAN DINE

According to one review, *Garden* runs on “passion, avarice, ambition and horse-racing.” It also runs on pure 1930s octane, because this is a classic house-party murder mystery, that staple of the Golden Age. As befitting a Philo yarn, of course, it’s a very Manhattan house party, with an actress and a socialite on hand, and a bookie on the telephone. There’s also a losing bet on the ponies and an ensuing suicide...but Philo, natch, is not sure just who pulled the trigger. A joy, as always, for readers who delight in Philo’s spectacular brand of awfulness—Is there anyone snootier? Snobbier? More taken with himself?—but also for fans of the Impossible Crime.

- “Philo Vance is not quite so fond of displaying his learning as he was in the earlier stories. But otherwise he is still the same old Philo, and long may he waver.”
—*New York Times*



FELONY CATEGORY: **VINTAGE**

December 2020 • Fiction/Mystery • 244 pages
Paperback: 978-1-63194-204-4 • \$14.95
Ebook: 978-1-63194-212-9 • \$9.99

The Kidnap Murder Case

PHILO VANCE #10

BY S.S. VAN DINE

“Philo Vance: Man of Action,” said nobody never. And yet *The Kidnap Murder Case* shows real signs of Van Dine’s responding both to changing times and to the public’s changing tastes, as Philo does much less sitting around pontificating and much more running around chasing bad guys. To accommodate this new Action Philo, the plot, featuring a purloined playboy and a demand that ransom be left at midnight in a hollow tree, is somewhat simplistic. However, Philo’s newfound skills with a pistol are additions to his bag of tricks, not replacements for the tricks we know and love—rest assured that he retains every ounce of his customary implausible charm.

- “Vance now reveals himself as a gun-fighter... [but] he is the same Philo, distinguished for his keen observation of details...and for his adroit questioning of witnesses and suspects.” —*New York Times*

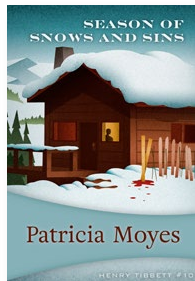
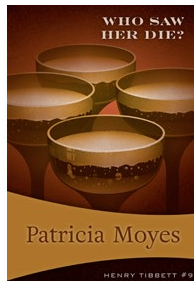
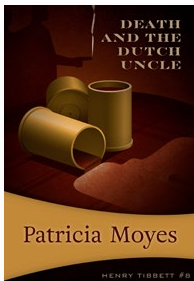
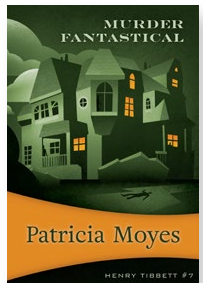
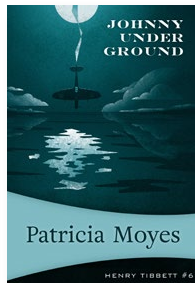
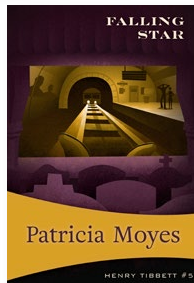
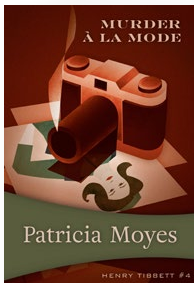
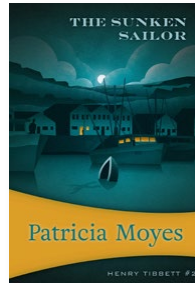
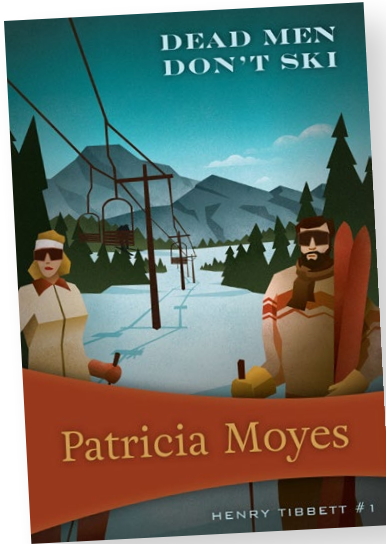
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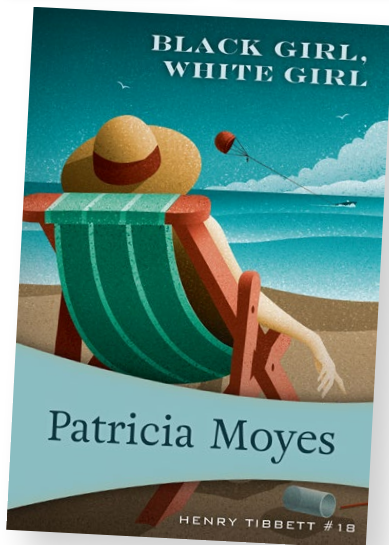
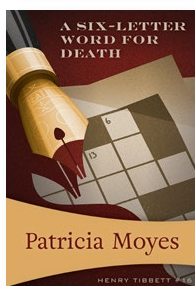
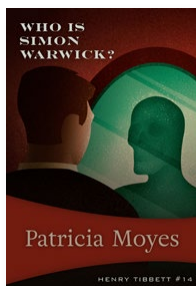
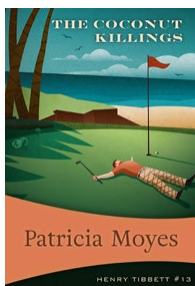
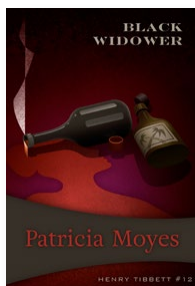
The Henry Tibbett Series

BY PATRICIA MOYES

FELONY CATEGORY: VINTAGE

Though written in the second half of the 20th century, these clever, refined police procedurals feel like a trip to the Golden Age.





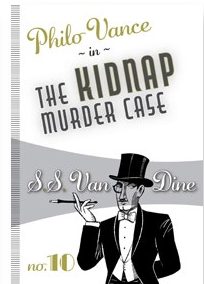
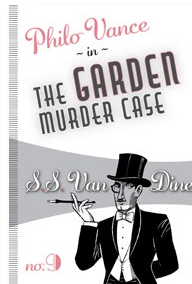
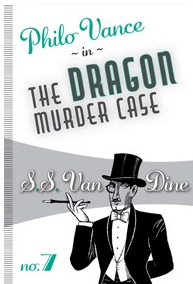
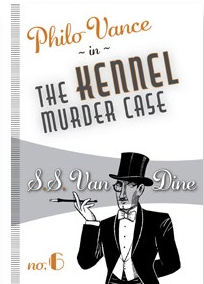
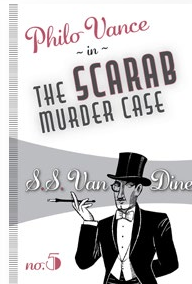
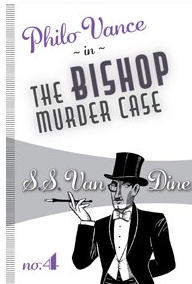
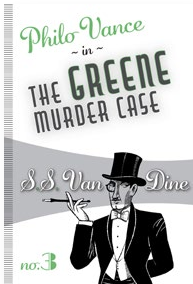
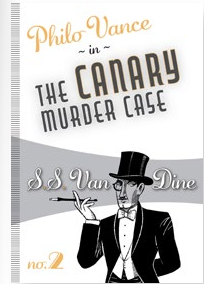
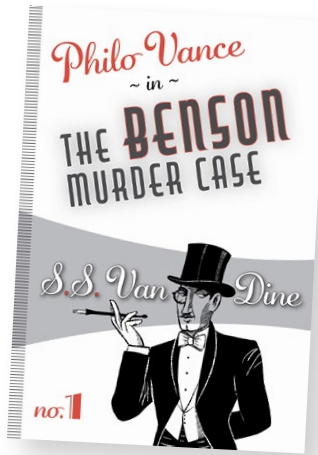
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The Philo Vance Series

BY S.S. VAN DINE

FELONY CATEGORY: VINTAGE

Snobbish, self-satisfied, pretentious, show-offy...we love Philo Vance because it's so much fun to loathe him!



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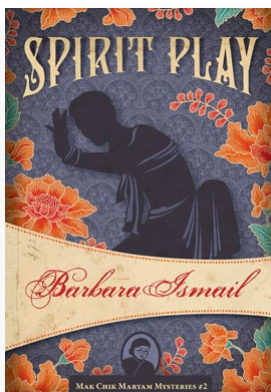
SOME WAYBACK FAVORITES

The Mak Chik Maryam Series

BY BARBARA ISMAIL

FELONY CATEGORY: FOREIGN

Traditional little-village mysteries in a decidedly *not*-English little village. Think *Murder, She Wrote* in Malaysia.



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BY MICHAEL MCDOWELL

FELONY CATEGORY: WILD CARD

Dig into these charming, slightly wacky tales of two ageless young'uns bickering and solving crimes across the decades.



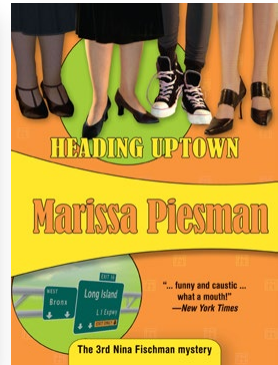
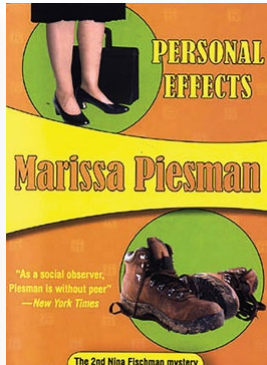
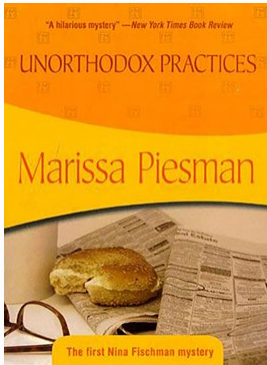
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BY **MARISSA PIESMAN**

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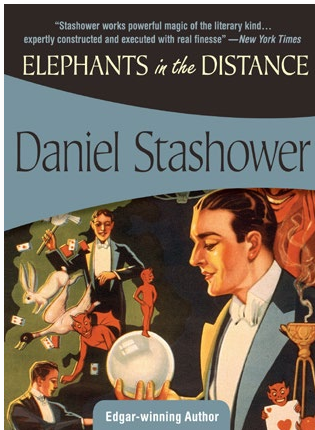
Like *Sex and the City* if Carrie Bradshaw had a Jewish mother; like *Seinfeld* if you actually liked the characters.



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FELONY CATEGORY: **TRADITIONAL**

Fiction/Mystery • 236 pages

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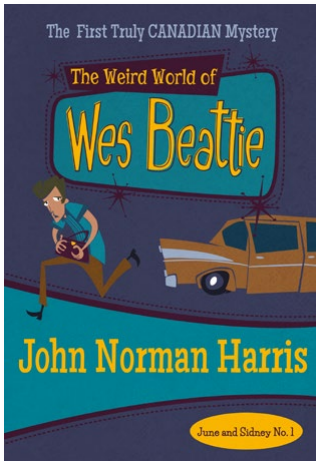
Elephants in the Distance

BY **DANIEL STASHOWER**

Paul Galliard is a magician by training and heredity: his father died performing the Bullet Catch, an infamous trick that over the centuries has claimed the lives of more than a dozen magicians. A pragmatist, Paul confines his conjuring to commercials; he shows up often on TV screens, demonstrating the “magical” power of some brand of household cleanser.

Then he gets a call. A producer wants to do a show highlighting his father’s old cronies, those grizzled vets of the glory days of TV magic-acts. Their top-hats are moth-eaten, their rabbits have arthritis, but they’re desperate for one last shot at the limelight. Paul would like to give it to them—these fellows all but raised him. But there’s a catch—a Bullet Catch, to be precise. Either Paul does the trick that killed his father, or the show doesn’t go on.

- “Stashower works powerful magic of the literary kind”—*New York Times*
- Edgar-winning author
- Ideal for fans of magic and truly well-written “cozies”



FELONY CATEGORY: **TRADITIONAL**

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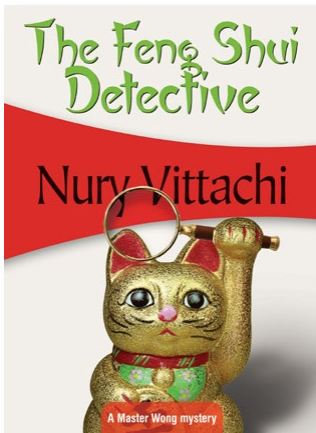
The Weird World of Wes Beattie

JUNE AND SIDNEY #1

BY JOHN NORMAN HARRIS

The youngest sprig of a stuffy Toronto family, Wes Beattie is one of life's losers, with a tendency to fabricate. Since Wes has the lying skills of a six-year-old, his fibs have tended to inspire a certain fond exasperation, but now he's gone too far. After narrowly escaping jail for swiping a woman's handbag from a sleazy motel, the hapless Wes is on trial for murder: his uncle has been bludgeoned to death, and the weapon is covered in Wes's sticky fingerprints. Wes's fantastic explanations—about a frame-up, a villainous gang, a mysterious sexpot—only enrage his already mortified family. But Sidney “Gargoyle” Grant, a disreputable young lawyer, is irritated by the rush to condemnation, and resolves to untangle the truth. If Agatha Christie had lived in Canada in the early 1960s (and been a wittier writer), Wes Beattie could have been her book.

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